

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR,  
1995

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1995, we pay homage to the 2,403 Americans killed at Pearl Harbor. Both Congress and the President have resolved that this date shall be designated as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day." The most effective way we can honor the memory of those Americans who were killed in battle is to encourage future generations of Americans to remember the tragedy and the significance of that day. On December 8, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress asking that "a state of war" be declared against the Imperial Government of Japan.

. . . But always will our whole Nation remember the character of the onslaught against us . . . The American people in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory . . . [We] will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us . . . With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, and on December 8, the Japanese launched unprovoked attacks against Pearl Harbor, Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippine Islands, Wake Island, and Midway Island.

At 0755 that fateful morning, waves of Japanese planes descended upon Pearl Harbor, bombing and strafing American planes and the Pacific fleet. In less than 2 hours, the attack was over.

The Japanese left behind a scene of destruction and carnage unparalleled in the history of the United States. Of the 96 ships present in the harbor that day, 3 were destroyed and 16 were severely damaged. The U.S.S. *Arizona* exploded and sank within 9 minutes, killing 1,103 sailors and Marines. When the smoke cleared that day 2,403 Americans were dead and 1,178 were wounded. Fifteen Medals of Honor were awarded, as well as 51 Navy Crosses, one Distinguished Flying Cross, and 53 Silver Stars.

On that day, boys became men, and men became heroes. Their courage came naturally and they reacted instinctively, knowing full well that America would ultimately succeed due to the nobility of their cause.

Never in the history of our fledgling republic has such a reprehensible act been perpetrated against innocent victims in a country not at war.

Never in the history of the United States has a country deceived another by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

Never in history of a constitutional government has this degree of treachery been com-

mitted against a military objective in a country not at war. These were truly dastardly and cowardly acts by the Imperial Government of Japan.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, however, was not a complete success. Their main targets, the aircraft carriers U.S.S. *Lexington*, *Enterprise* and *Saratoga*, were absent during the assault. The Japanese, as well, failed to destroy both repair and strategic oil storage facilities on the island, without which the Pacific fleet would have been forced to withdraw to the west coast of the United States.

History has established that wealth alone offers no protection against aggression. Success in war depends upon the character of its citizens and the quality of its leadership, not the sum total of its wealth.

No nation on Earth has ever been overwhelmed for a lack of it, and the nobility of the character of its citizens has produced a legacy of magnanimity for generations to come. It is for them, America's future, that we apply the lessons of the past.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was the defining moment in the consolidation of the American spirit. Pearl Harbor was our rally point producing our single-minded resolve toward victory. That resolve made us unyielding in war, and today sustains our aspirations for lasting peace. The energized and unleashed power of America turned the tide of battle in the Pacific, resulting in a continuous procession of pulverizing defeats against the Imperial Government of Japan.

Since Pearl Harbor, America has never stood alone. Beside us stand nations deeply committed to freedom, democracy, and a free market environment—nations including our former enemies Japan, Germany and Russia. This unity of purpose continues to inspire us in the cause of peace among nations.

As we commensurate "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day," let us never forget the memory of those Americans who sacrificed their lives in the defense of freedom and democracy, and let us always recall, with deep respect, those individual acts of heroism and valor demonstrated by men and women who defended America 55 years ago today.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PAUL  
CSONKA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Floridian, Paul Csonka, who passed away this last Friday at the age of 90. Paul was a distinctive individual who led a remarkably full life. His life centered around his love for music and his desire to enrich the lives of those around him with his knowledge.

One of his early professional achievements was cofounding the Salzburg Opera Festival in

pre-War II Austria. He was actively involved in this project until the Nazi regime took over his homeland. With nothing but his love of music and the clothes on his back, he fled to Cuba in 1938. There, Paul was able to continue his cultural endeavors, and share his fervor with the people of Cuba.

Once again, he was forced to leave all of his worldly possessions behind as he fled Cuba after Fidel Castro took over. But it was his art that truly mattered, and this is what he brought with him to south Florida. After settling in Palm Beach, Paul ushered in a period of increased cultural awareness. He served as the creative director of the Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches which eventually evolved into the Palm Beach Opera. The opera thrived under his direction as he singlehandedly defined the opera scene in Palm Beach. After leaving the Palm Beach Opera in 1983, his presence in the cultural community persisted. He continued working with music students and produced a series of music programs at a variety of retirement communities. He received a honorary degree from New York University as a tribute to his contribution to the music world.

While he was renowned for his musical talents, he will be remembered most for his character and humanity. His experiences and personality made him larger than life and his charisma was infectious. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Paul Csonka.

THE BEST SMALL TOWN IN  
AMERICA

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Essex, CT, on being named the Best Small Town in America by author Norman Crampton. Mr. Crampton's book, "The 100 Best Small Towns in America," recognizes Essex for qualities its residents, and people across Connecticut, have appreciated for many years. The residents, officials, and business people of the community should be very proud of this honor, which acknowledges their commitment to their community.

Mr. Crampton ranked towns across the Nation using several criteria, including per capita income, crime rate, public school expenditure per pupil, and percentage of population with a bachelor's degree. While every survey seeking to rate communities relies on similar factors, the author also considered community efforts to provide housing to all income groups and to encourage residents to play an active role in town affairs.

In the final analysis, Essex rose above every other small town in America to be named No. 1. Since settlers first came to the area in the mid-1600's, Essex, which encompasses the villages of Centerbrook, Ivoryton, and Essex, has distinguished itself. For much

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of the 18th and early-19th centuries, Essex was known as a world-class shipbuilding center. In fact, the first ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy in 1775, the *Oliver Cromwell*, was built in Essex and provided to our fledgling Government by the State of Connecticut. In addition to building the ships which were the lifeline of commerce in the 1700's and 1800's, Essex was an important commercial port for trade throughout the world, especially between the eastern United States and the islands of the Caribbean. The village of Ivoryton was so named because Essex was home to one of the leading manufacturers of piano keys. Manufacturers in Essex also helped to pioneer commercial production of witch hazel and the community remains home to one of the world's largest distillers of this product.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious to this Member why Essex has been ranked No. 1. The community has something to offer to everyone. Families can take advantage of first-rate public schools, affordable housing, and local employment opportunities. Lying on the banks of the lower Connecticut River, Essex boasts tidal flats and marshes, coves and inlets which provide valuable habitat for many species of fish, wildlife and birds. Visitors can enjoy leisurely rides on the Connecticut Valley Railroad, affectionately known by locals as the Essex Steamtrain, and conclude their day with a great meal at the historic Griswold Inn, which has been serving visitors for more than 200 years.

During the course of writing his book, Mr. Crampton interviewed citizens in communities around the Nation. His conversations with those in Essex highlighted another characteristic which makes this community special—the volunteer spirit of its residents. Until recently, virtually every local official served without pay and many continue to do so today. Fires are fought by volunteers, school playgrounds are built by parents, and elections are monitored by civic-minded citizens who never receive a penny for their dedication to their community. Mr. Richard Gamble summed up the contribution of Essex's residents by saying "we're unusually blessed by people who are not only capable, but willing to spend the time."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join residents from Essex in celebrating this much deserved honor. Parochially, I believe every small town across the Second Congressional District could qualify for the No. 1 spot. However, today we celebrate the achievements of this community and welcome people from across the country to come join us in America's No. 1 Small Town—Essex.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 1995*

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 837. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 2684.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ENID G. WALDHOLTZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 1995*

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 837 I was unavoidably detained and I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act of 1995. This bill removes the penalty for seniors who choose to work in their later years by raising the Social Security earnings limit. Under current law, seniors lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 they earn above \$11,280. When you add FICA and Federal income taxes, seniors are hit with a tax rate of over 55 percent, a higher rate than millionaires pay. This bill removes that penalty by safeguarding Social Security benefits of seniors earning up to \$30,000, rewarding—rather than punishing—working seniors.

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THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1995 IS GOOD FOR CALIFORNIA

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 1995*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, as Congress and the President are mired in budget negotiations, it is a good time to reflect on why a balanced budget by 2002 is so important. The national debt as of Monday was \$4,988,891,675,281.12. This figure is outrageous. It is why my Republican colleagues and I are fighting so hard for a balanced budget and why time is of the essence. Our children should not be saddled with this overwhelming financial burden.

Passing the Balanced Budget Act now is not only good for the country, it is good for California. The people of California will save \$262 per household per year on the State and local government debt, \$4,757 per year on an average fixed-rate mortgage, and \$858 on the average 10-year student loan. These are real benefits for the hard-working people of California.

Mr. Speaker, agreement on a balanced budget will ensure that the current and future generations of California will enjoy lower taxes, cheaper loans, and lower mortgages. A budget stalemate will deny Californians, and all Americans, the future they deserve.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN HOWARD COLES III

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 1995*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on December 31, 1994, Dr. John Howard Coles III, a constituent of mine, retired after a long and distinguished medical career.

Dr. Coles has unselfishly devoted his entire life to the healing of others, investing countless hours in the operating room, by his pa-

tients' bedsides or on the telephone late at night discussing a sick patient's symptoms.

Dr. Coles is from the old school of medicine, where care and genuine concern were always part of the prescription, and nothing was too minor for his attention. In an era where big business has spread to the medical industry, Dr. Coles' office was a sanctuary for his patients because they always knew they could find someone who truly cared about them, not only about their physical well-being, but their emotional well-being and the health of their families as well. He knew their children's names, vacation plans and desires for the future.

I will never forget the warmth and concern Dr. Coles showed for my welfare when I was a freshman on the Hillsboro High School football team. Dr. Coles put stitches in my chin and left me with a lasting, wonderful impression of his superior bedside manner and conscientious attention to detail. You knew that when Dr. Coles was taking care of you, you were in the best of hands. He personalized every relationship and truly made you feel as if you alone were his No. 1 priority.

The announcement of his retirement prompted a letter to the editor in The Tennessean from patient Sara Roop, and I'd like to take a moment to read a portion of that letter because I believe she has accurately captured the essence of Dr. John Coles.

For over 20 years, Dr. Coles has responded to my calls, some frantic with concern over a sick child, some simply seeking advice or reassurance. The ailment was never too minor, the question too foolish, nor the time consumed too excessive.

Just talking with Dr. Coles was good medicine. He would always dispense appropriate doses of advice, medication, treatment and kindness. Then he would send us home with the directive, "Call me any time, day or night."

What has impressed me most about John Coles is his genuine compassion—a rare commodity, even in the medical profession. "I'm sorry" was a much-used phrase. He was truly sorry when my son or daughter was ill, when I struggled physically and emotionally with breast cancer.

I am sure Dr. Coles is unaware he has shared so many of these wonderful gifts with my family and so many other grateful patients. Giving wasn't something he did; it was something he was.

Dr. Coles was born in Nashville on Sept. 29, 1927, and graduated from Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical School. He served a rotating internship at Baltimore City Hospital in 1951–52, delivering 105 babies in a 60-day period. He continued at Baltimore with a surgical residency through 1955, taking a little time out to marry.

After serving an Oncology Fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1955–56, he served as a captain and base surgeon at Chenault Air Force Base in 1957–59.

In 1959, he established his private practice in general surgery and general practice, which he continued until his recent retirement. In addition to his regular medical duties, he also served as school physician for David Lipscomb College from 1968–82 and as a team physician for Hillsboro High School from 1960–73. He has held surgical privileges at Baptist Hospital, St. Thomas Hospital and Nashville General Hospital.

He has been a physician and surgical consultant to such local companies at South